

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-13 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 MC-02

TRSE-00 /078 W

-----241642Z 024251 /53

O R 241510Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4548

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0521

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT)

SUBJECT: PRESS DISCUSSION OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

1. A BRIEF SENTENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE AFTER THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING ON JANUARY 23 REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HAD DISCUSSED WITH THE CABINET "THE EXPECTED VISITS OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE..." FOLLOWING ON FROM THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT OBVIOUSLY BASED ON EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS, THERE WAS WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE JANUARY 24 OF THE CABINET DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, SEVERAL MINISTERS (YAACOB, SHEMTOV AND KOL) REQUESTED A FULL CABINET DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. RABIN DISAGREED WITH THEIR REQUEST, SAYING THERE WAS NOTHING NEW WHICH WARRANTED FULL CABINET DISCUSSION.

2. ACCORDING TO THESE PRESS REPORTS, RABIN AND ALLON TOLD THE CABINET THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE VISITING SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST CAPITALS, BUT HIS TOUR WAS NOT "A MIDDLE EAST SHUTTLE." ALLON IS REPORTED ALSO TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE U.S. HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO WOLDHEIM THAT HIS EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE SUPERFLUOUS. AID TO ISRAEL WILL BE A MAJOR SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION, IN ANTICIPATION THAT AID TO EGYPT WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN SECRETARY VANCE VISITS CAIRO.

3. THESE THEMES HAVE ALSO BEEN REFLECTED IN THE

EARLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ABOUT THE VISIT. DAHLIA SHEHORI
WROTE IN AL HAMISHMAR THAT THERE WAS SATISFACTION IN
JERUSALEM THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE THE FIRST STOP ON THE
SECRETARY'S ITINERARY. HIGH GOVERNMENT SOURCES WERE
REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD ADVANCED THE
DATES OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE
WALDHEIM'S VISIT. YEDIOT AHARONOT REPORTS FROM ITS
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS IN-
STRUCTED THE SECRETARY TO REQUEST BOTH THE ISRAELIS
AND THE ARABS TO SHOW RESTRAINT IN THEIR ARMS PURCHASES
IN THE FUTURE.
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